

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 091431Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1533

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: INITIAL SOVIET REACTIONS TO NIXON

RESIGNATION

1. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE U.S.S.R.'S INSTITUTE OF AFRICA MADE A SPECIAL POINT TODAY OF ASKING TWO U.S. OFFICIALS WHETHER PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION WOULD IMPEDE THE IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AFTER THE AMERICANS ASSURED HIM OF THE CONTINUITY OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY, HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT WAS TRUE. DETENTE WAS NOT BASED ON INDIVIDUALS ON EITHER SIDE. NEVERTHELESS, INDIVIDUALS DO PLAY A ROLE. PERHAPS MR NIXON HAD PLAYED HIS ROLE. IN ANY CASE, HIS ROLE HAD BEEN A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE FOR OUR TWO PEOPLES. AND AND THE SOVIET PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER HIM FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS.

2. COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT WAS INTRODUCED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONVERSATION, AND THE SUBJECT DID NOT
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COME UP THEREAFTER. IT WAS DELIVERED WITH SUCH FIRMNESS

AND PRECISION THAT IT SOUNDED REHEARSED.

3. A SOVIET MIDDLE-LEVEL CULTURAL OFFICIAL TOLD ANOTHER EMBOFF THAT SHE WAS INCREDULOUS WHEN SHE HEARD THE NEWS THIS MORNING ON LOCAL RADIO. ALTHOUGH SHE WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN OF WHAT EXACTLY THE PRESIDENT HAD DONE (SINCE NONE OF THE DETAILS HAVE BEEN COVERED IN SOVIET MEDIA), SHE DISPLAYED A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF THE US SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES, AND WAS FASCINATED THAT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POEPL E COULD BRING ABOUT THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT. HER OVERALL REACTION WAS ONE OF ADMIRATION OF THE SYSTEM AS SHE UNDERSTOOD IT. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE FOR HER WAS THE FACT THAT NIXON HAD JUST BEEN TO THE USSR.

4. ANOTHER PRIVATE CONTACT EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR OUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED SOVIET MEDIA HAD NOT CARRIED MORE ON THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION, AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD COVER MORE FULLY THE SWEARING IN OF PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE FORD.
STOESSEL

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